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# HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

Subject: "Hold Those Sacks" Information from Office of  
Marketing Services, War Food Administration

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When you went to the grocery in pre-war days you picked up your purse and away you went. Then when ration books entered the picture you had to be sure they were in your pocket. Now there's one more item to remember when you go to the grocery store. That's a shopping bag.

Paper is getting scarcer by the hour, especially kraft paper from which brown grocery sacks are made. You're well acquainted with the reasons for the paper shortage. Our own lumberjacks have gone to war, and pulp can't be imported now as it was before the war. Then, too, military needs for paper are so numerous and so essential that paper bags for our groceries seem relatively unimportant.

However, when you're bringing home the bologna you can't swing it over your arm. Fortunately you don't have to tuck your unwrapped loaf of bread under your arm as many European women do. In fact many food items in the stores are already wrapped. And of course any cooperative shopper is glad to carry a box of cereal or sack of coffee down the street without benefit of further wrapping.

The problem comes when you buy a quantity of groceries. Unless you have a handy baby carriage or little red wagon to carry the load you need a strong market bag. Of course you'll save all your paper bags and use them as long as they'll hold anything. But when the paper bags are all gone, then what? If you're lucky enough to have an attic or basement maybe you can uncover a forgotten basket. Give it a bath and re-enforce the handles if necessary. When you go to market you'll be the envy of all your neighbors.

But if you can't locate a treasured basket you might look about for heavy material to make a shopping bag. One woman took eight samples of upholstery and stitched them firmly together. For handles she used the rods from a broken towel rack. You'll find that 2 smaller bags are easier to carry...one in each hand... than one large bag. With a little ingenuity you can meet most any emergency. And if every homemaker cooperates in saving paper bags the shortage may not become acute.

